

## **Dalton Development and Industrial Commission**

**Kenneth E. Walto**, Chairman

The Dalton Development and Industrial Commission (DIC) is the town's economic development agency. The town, at the 2002 Annual Town Meeting, established it. Under state law the commission is authorized to "promote and develop the industrial resources of the town" and to "investigate and assist in the establishment of educational or commercial projects for the purpose of strengthening the local economy." 2003 was the first full year of operation for the commission. Significant and on-going economic development ventures are outlined below:

- Work began on the creation of an Industrial Park. Eight sites outlined in the Dalton Business Development Plan were reviewed. Two sites were targeted for further review and one site is being actively considered.
- Representatives of related organizations met with the commission including the Chamber of Commerce, Lee Community Development Corporation, Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation, Massachusetts Office of Business Development and the Massachusetts Development Agency.
- A successful application for Community Development funds for a downtown revitalization program was prepared with the assistance of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. In July, \$250,000 was awarded by the state to renovate commercial buildings in the Main Street corridor.
- The town was accepted as part of the Berkshire Economic Target Area in order to participate in the state's Economic Development Incentive Program. This program provides financial incentives to expanding local businesses. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission prepared the application.

I thank the commission members. Their selfless efforts will help to ensure the economic health of the community for years to come.

### **Commission Members**

Robert M. Allessio

Charles J. Dooley, Vice-Chair

Michael J. Ferry

Denis E. Guyer

Timothy Kiley

Robert A. Proskin

Stephen A. Sears

Augustus J. Schnopp, Jr.  
William A. Suriner  
Kenneth E. Walto, Chairman  
William R. Wilson, Jr.